

CANCER IN THE UNITED STATES

An estimated 8.9 million Americans alive in January 1999 had some history of cancer, either current or past. (ACS Facts 2003) In the US, the lifetime risk of developing cancer is a little less than 1 in 2 for men, and a little more than 1 in 3 for women. (ACS Facts 2003)

In 2003, it is expected that approximately 1,334,100 new cases of invasive cancer will be diagnosed in the US (includes noninvasive cancer of the urinary bladder, and does not include basal and squamous cell skin cancers). (ACS Facts 2003) Among men, incidence for all cancers combined increased steadily for most of the 1970's and 1980's. The rate peaked and declined in the early 1990's and changed little in the later half of the decade. Among women, the incidence for all cancers combined has increased slowly since at least the 1970's. (SEER Incidence) In men, cancer occurs most frequently in the prostate, lung, and colon-rectum. The most common cancers among females are cancers of the breast, lung, and colon-rectum.

In 2003, it is expected that approximately 556,500 Americans will die of cancer. (ACS Facts 2003) Responsible for one in four deaths, cancer is the second leading cause of death in the US (behind heart disease). At the national level, mortality from cancer increased for most of the 1970's and 1980's although decreasing rates in the 1990's brought the cancer mortality rate close to what it was in the early 1970's. (SEER Mortality) The most deadly cancers among men are cancers of the lung, prostate, and colon-rectum. The most deadly cancers among women are cancers of the lung, breast, and colon-rectum.

Cancer is a profound public health problem, costing an estimated \$171.6 billion in the year 2002, as follows:

- \$60.9 billion for direct medical costs (total of all health expenditures);
- \$15.5 billion for indirect morbidity costs (cost of lost productivity due to illness); and
- \$95.2 billion for indirect mortality costs (cost of lost productivity due to premature death). (ACS Facts 2003)